



The Xavier University School of Medicine began classes this week

Aruba's Minister of Education the Honorable Wilfredo Croes was proud to welcome the Staff, Faculty and nearly 100 students of the newly opened Xavier University School of Medicine on Monday morning. He claimed this historic moment as another step in establishing Aruba not only as a vacation paradise and tourist destination, but also as fulfilling his dream in the island becoming a place of advance education known all over the world.

Attending the official orientation was Xavier University Director Mr. Kanaan Baroud, accompanied by all the staff including Dr. Gil I. Apacible, of the Phillipines, Dean of Basic Science, and instructor of Anatomy, and his wife, Dr. Baily Apacible, the Campus Registrar. Dr. Olumuyiwa Adeboye of Nigeria is the Dean of Student Affairs as well as professor of Pharmacology and Physical Diagnosis, and Dr. Gil Aacible, Jr. joins his parent on the staff to teach an Introduction to Anatomy and Medical Terminology.

Other staff members include Dr. Radoslaw Ras of Poland teaching Pathology and Physiology; Dr. Jinghai Zhan of China, Biochemistry, Embryology and Genetics; Dr. A. Sheik of Pakistan and the U.S., Histology & Introduction to Cell Biology; Dr. Khan, Neuroanatomy; Dr Maram, General and Organic Chemistry; Professor Shaikh, Physics & Calculus. Also on staff is Zobaida Ayubi, the university secretary, and Mr. Naresh Hinduja the IT Professional for the school.

The staff, faculty and student body represent a mix of cultures, thought Director Baroud states that the major portion of the students are U.S. and Canadian citizens. A large medical library is already set up, plus lecture halls in the Bogaard Insurance building on the Paardenbaistraat in Orajestad, but Xavier University School of Medicine is putting the finishing touches on its own building nearby.

Part of the charter the school has with the government, which allows it to operate on Aruba, is the requirement that it grants two full scholarships annually to deserving Arubian students. Those that are native born islanders and wish to pursue a career in medicine can stop by the school for an application, or make one through the offices of the Ministry of Health.

The Xavier University School of Medicine was established in Bonaire for four years ago, but has decided to move their complete facility to Aruba, for various reasons, including greater accessibility to communications technology, and a wide variety of amenities that are more appealing to potential students. The staff also asserted that they are always looking for housing for students, and would appreciate that anyone that has it available to contact their offices.

On a final note, Mr. Baroud expressed his thanks to the Government of Aruba, and for the cooperation of the various ministries that helped to expedite the opening of the school, and made it easier for the students and faculty to establish here. "In the name of the board of directors of the university I wish to extend our gratitude. We feel the establishment of the school is not only good for us, but excellent for the island of Aruba and its citizens, and that everyone will benefit. The students will bring money to the island, and open up a new source of income for the island aside from tourism. We are looking to grow in a very short time to a student body of 500+, which will be a substantial source of income, and good for the economy. We thank the island of Aruba, and if we can reciprocate their hospitality in any way, or assist the island, we will be happy to do that."

A warm welcome to the Xavier University School of Medicine, looks like Aruba might become a college town!